

Murray River at Yunderup, my wife and I saw a handsome lutino Silvereye. The plumage was a creamy yellow with some darker feathers on the wings and the head. It was very conspicuous among its fellows dodging about in the foliage of the *Melaleucas* overhanging the water.

—C. C. SPORN, Mandurah.

The Australian Pratincole near the Western Australian Border.—Serventy and Whittell (*Birds of Western Australia*, 1951) do not record the Australian Pratincole (*Stiltia isabella*) in Western Australia south of the Kimberley Division, though it ranges over a large part of Eastern Australia. In South Australia it is known as far west as Ooldea and Streaky Bay. On February 4, 1957, however, I observed three birds close to the border, at the aerodrome at Koonalda in South Australia. The birds were not nervous and allowed an approach to within 50 yards. Since Koonalda is approximately 60 miles east of the state border it is not unlikely that Australian Pratincoles will be recorded eventually in the southern parts of this State.

—V. N. SERVENTY, Nedlands.

Diamond Dove at Dryandra.—Serventy and Whittell (*Handbook*, 1951, p. 74) state of the Diamond Dove (*Geopelia cuneata*) that it is not a regular inhabitant of the South-West but occasionally irrupts into this region. In the last few years there have been several published records for the South-West (see *W. Aust. Nat.*, 6: 24, and *Emu*, 57: 11). On Oct. 25, 1956, two Diamond Doves were seen by the writer and Mr. D. L. McIntosh on a sandy track near Dryandra. The field description recorded in the notebook was "red ring around eye, spots on forward half of wing, light blue-grey breast and neck."

—J. H. CALABY, Canberra.

Black Bream near Bridgetown.—The Black Bream (*Acanthopagrus butcheri*) is a common fish in the lower reaches of rivers in the South-West but there appears to be little on record of the extent of its penetration upstream. On October 26, 1954, about 10 p.m., a very large specimen was caught in the Blackwood River, just on the Boyup Brook side of the Bridgetown Road Board boundary. The approximate length of the Blackwood River from its mouth at Augusta to Bridgetown would be about 130 miles, without taking into account the minor windings (difficult to measure on the 10 miles to the inch map I used). Thus the actual distance would be very much more than this.

The fish measured 27.5 cm. to the caudal fork. After being filleted it was sent to Perth to Dr. D. L. Serventy for confirmation of the identification.

—S. R. WHITE, Floreat Park.

An Observation on the Drinking of *Trachysaurus rugosus*.—While working at the Biological Research Station on Rottnest I. early this year, the writer witnessed a rather unusual phenomenon with regard to the water balance physiology of the Bob-tailed